

## **BRAC University observed the National Mourning Day on 15 August 2009**

BRAC University observed the National Mourning Day on 15 August 2009 at the indoor games room. A painting competition was held in the morning among the children from Karail. Syeda Asifa Sultana, lecturer, ENH gave a brief life sketch of the father of the nation Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Dr. S. Hashemi, Director BRAC Development Institute talked about the influence of Bangabondhu on his life and work. The Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury spoke about his experiences of the 'Historic 7 March Speech' by Bangabondhu. The Vice Chancellor then distributed prizes among the winners of the painting competition participated by the children of Karail. The event ended with the presentation of a few patriotic songs by eminent singer Sadi Muhammed. The Art Society and Film Club members helped Student Affairs to arrange the event.

## **Architecture Update**

### **Workshop organized on climate change**

A day long workshop "Supporting Local Coping Strategies through Adaptation Planning" was held on August 25, 2009 at the BRAC Centre auditorium. This was jointly organized by the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, Development Planning Unit, University College London and BRAC Development Institute. The workshop was a part of the research work 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities' of the British Council funded Higher Education Link Program between the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and the Development Planning Unit, University College London that began in 2008. More than forty participants from different urban poor communities; public and private institutions; government agencies, donor agencies, NGOs and research organizations attended the workshop. The objective was to generate discussions among researchers and practitioners working with climate change, urban poverty and local government issues to examine and assess the scope for developing and implementing a local adaptation plan to climate change and climate variability that explicitly integrates planned actions and coping strategies from a pro-poor perspective, whilst building up local adaptive capacity in cities (both at the institutional and grass root levels). Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur R Choudhury inaugurated the workshop while Professor Syed M Hashemi, Director, BRAC Development Institute moderated the session. The workshop was facilitated by Adriana Allen, Senior Lecturer & Director of the MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development programme of Development Planning Unit, University College London. Professor Ainun Nishat, Senior Advisor on Climate Change, Asia region, IUCN made a presentation on 'Policies and programs addressing climate change in Bangladesh: Management of Urban areas'. The presentation 'Built-in-Resilience: Learning from grass-root coping strategies' by Huraera Jabeen, Senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, analyzed the findings from an ongoing research work. Adriana Allen made a presentation on 'Supporting grass-root coping strategies through municipal adaptation planning' highlighting why and how cities engage in municipal adaptation planning.

The participants in the evening session worked in three thematic groups focusing on adapting basic urban services, land use planning and the built environment and disaster management strategies to climate variability. The findings identified contributing planned actions, current coping strategies and how further synergy could be built between these two to strengthen urban resilience whilst specifically reducing the vulnerability of the urban poor. The program ended with presentations and discussions among different groups. The detailed findings of the workshop as well as other research findings from primary data collected from two areas in Dhaka will be made available at a designated website in March 2010.

### **Critique Week**

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through final year were held this semester from 9 August to 12 August. Nahas A. Khalil, Mustafa Amin, Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad, Marina Tabassum, Salahuddin, Naushaduz Zaman were present as guest critics in different critique sessions.

### **Final Year Thesis Project Critique**

The students of the final design studio presented their graduating projects on 9 and 10 August 2009. The projects included River Heritage Museum and Research Center, Cricket Complex, Cultural Center for Iran,

Mangrove Interpretation and Visitors Center, Amanat Shah- Dargah Complex, Tech-Center and Cultural Promenade, National Oceanographic Aquarium and Research Institute, DCC Market, Craft Museum, Three star hotel, 'Global Warming and Sea Level Rise'- A Future Design for Bangladesh, Ram-Krishna Sebasram, Bus Terminal, Bahai Temple Complex, Folklore Center, Country Boat Museum and Research Center, Utsho Campus, KOLPOLOK Civic Center, Bangladesh Land-Port Authority, Bangladesh Land-Port Authority, Child Rehabilitation Center, NGO Affair Bureau Headquarter.

Professor Abu H Imamuddin, Bashirul Haq, Naushad uz Zaman, Muhammad Foyez Ullah, Salahuddin, Harun-ur-Rashid, B.K.S. Inan, Naim uz Zaman, Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Prof. Zainab F Ali, faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique. A large number of students from architecture departments of different universities attended these sessions.

### **Faculty joined International Training Program**

Sajid-Bin-Doza, Senior Lecturer, BRAC University, Department of Architecture has been officially selected to attend the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) - Advanced International Training Programme on Shelter Design and Development under Housing Development and Management School in Lund University, Lund, Sweden, and regional continuation in Asia in February 2010. The duration of the course is from 19 August to 11 September 2009. The five phases of the Advanced International Training Programme are as follows, One: Participant's Individual works; Two: A course in Housing Development and Management, Lund University, Sweden; Three: Participant to develop individual project in the home organization with the distance support from an HMD advisor; Four: A two week continuation during February 2010 in Asia, in a country to be determined, to study notable experiences in the region and to present and revise the individual work; Five: The final submission of the individual work.

### **Faculty attended workshop**

Sajid-Bin-Doza, Senior Lecturer, BRAC University, Department of Architecture attended a workshop on conservation work at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, which has undertaken a three years long program for the Celebration of 400 years of Capital Dhaka through Scholarly and Development works. The workshop was held on Saturday 8 August 2009. Professor Sirajul Islam, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop and moderated the sessions. One of the projects regarding this 3-year long program would be the "Conservation of the Historic Building of Nimali Palace Deuri".

### **Students' work as research assistants**

Seven senior level students, Suhailey Farzana, Fahim Mostafa, Durdana Parvez, Ahmed Bin Parvez, Arijita Areen Chowdhury, Shekhar Adittay Sayeed, Fabiha Pinaz participated in data collection for the research work on 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities' under the supervision of Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer of the department. They worked for a week in informal settlement in Mohammadpur Beri Badh area gathering information on understanding the perception of climate variability by the urban poor as well as type of vulnerability from flooding and heat stress from built environment. They documented each household through sketches and photographs as well as structured questionnaires.

### **Internship of the Department of Architecture**

To fulfill the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor of Architecture in BRAC University, an architecture student who has completed her/his fourth year need to work as an architectural trainee at an architectural firm of repute. The architectural firm can be in Bangladesh or abroad. The objective of the internship is to gain knowledge of the professional practice. As a requirement of ARC 300: Practical Training, the following students have completed their internship from May 17, 2009 to August 13, 2009.

#### **Name (ID) Name of the Firm**

YANA ZOHA (04108007) Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka  
SARITA RAHMAN (05108004) Architect Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder Aesthetes House no-11/ARoad no-13, (new), Dhanmondi, Dhaka.  
NAZIA FERDOUSH (05108023) Architect Sohel Shakur Pronayon Commercial court 3rd floor, 95/ Agrabad commercial Area, Chittagong-4100.  
SUDESHNA SHIREEN CHOWDHURY (05208001) Gurjit Singh Matharoo Matharoo Associates 24/E, Capital Commercial Centre, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380 006  
FAHTEEN NAYEEM KHAN (05208002) Architect Marina Tabassum Marina Tabassum Architects House 13/a, Road 3 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205  
ADIBA MOHD. ABDUR RAHMAN (05208004) Architect Nahas Khalil Arc Architectural Consultant House 60/A, Road 7A,

Dhanmondi, Dhaka

ESHITA RAHMAN (05208005) Architect Khushnu Panthaki Hoof VASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujrat, India.

MIR NABILA ALI (05208012) Architect. Jimmy Lim CSL ASSOCIATES 8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MD. RAHGIR FERDOUS (05308001) Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-ABanani, Dhaka

JYOTI FERDOUS (05308003) Architect Uttam Kumar Shaha Nandan Architects 10-21, Priyopangan Tower, Banani, Dhaka

QUAZI MOHD ASHIQUE-UZ- ZAMAN (05308004) Architect Khushnu Panthaki Hoof VASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujrat, India.

SUSMITA SAYEEDA LABONNYA (05308006) Architect B K S Inan CAD Ltd House no-CWN (B)18/B Road-44, Gulshan-02, Dhaka.

A.K.M. SHARIFUL HAQUE (05308009) Architect Khan Md. Mustapha Khaled Vistaara Architects (Pvt.) Ltd. Apt. D1, SE(H)6, Road 143 Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

NAZIA FARNAZ (05308010) Architect Nahas Khalil Arc Architectural Consultant House 60/A, Road 7A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

SYED ATIQRUR RAHMAN (05308011) Architect Ehsan Khan Vitti Sthapati Brinda Ltd. 02 Shangshad Avenue (3rd floor) Dhaka 1215

RISAL AHMED (05308014) Architect. Jimmy Lim CSL ASSOCIATES 8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

REZWAN HOSSAIN (05308015) Architect M. K Aaref Aaref and Associates House - 15 B, Road - 50 Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212

## **BDI Update**

### **Graduation Ceremony of the MLARR Certificate Course**

The BRAC Development Institute and the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, have just completed their postgraduate certificate course on "Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)". The three-month program provided expert training to help fill the intense supply gap in professionals in land acquisition, compensation and resettlement. The program ensured student proficiency in data analysis, environment impact assessments, social impact assessments, resettlement action plans, and global good practices to meet the needs of project affected people.

BDI and the Department of Architecture organized a ceremony on 26th August, 2009 at the BRAC Centre to celebrate the graduation of the first set of participants of the course. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury handed out the certificates. The event also included a Job Fair for MLARR and other graduates to provide information on employment opportunities in land management and social development. Representatives from, IFC, World Bank, BRAC, Delta BRAC Housing, Manusher Jonno Foundation (and their partners including Uttaran and Speed Trust), CEGIS, Chevron Bangladesh, BEPZA, IIFC, GTZ were present to showcase their work on land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.

### **BDI Seminar "Why NGOs in Bangladesh?" presented by Dr. Salehudin Ahmed**

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University spoke on the emergence and successes of NGOs in Bangladesh at the BDI seminar on August 19th. He talked about the relationship between NGOs and the government, the participation of women in the successes of microfinance projects, garments industries and the overall economy. He also explained why "NGO" as a term is ambiguous and inaccurate. The lecture ended with an interactive question answer session by the participants.

### **Workshop on "Supporting Local Coping Strategies through Adaptation Planning"**

The Department of Architecture and the BRAC Development Institute organized a one day workshop on "Supporting Local Coping Strategies through Adaptation Planning" on August 25th. The workshop was designed to identify strategies to better prepare local governments to develop long term climate change adaptation programs. It focused on the following issues:

- How current policies and programs address urban climate change adaptation planning in Bangladesh
- How local governments can mainstream grass-root coping strategies through city-wide adaptation planning

The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and chaired by Professor Syed M Hashemi. Professor Ainun Nishat, Huraera Jabeen and Adriana Allen made presentations. Practitioners and researchers working with climate change, urban poverty and local government issues in Bangladesh attended.

### **BDI to host Nagorik Mela on January 18-19, 2010**

The "Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Promoting Participation" Program at BDI is leading a multi organizational effort to hold a two day citizen fair (Nagorik Mela) in Dhaka in January 2010. The Mela seeks to reach out to a wide audience to showcase the work that NGOs and grassroots organizations engage in to protect the rights of the marginalized and to develop proactive citizenship at the local level.

The Mela is essentially a celebration of the achievements to date, and a neutral space for diverse actors to dialog and learn from each other. BDI is working with others to organize the event. Already over sixty rights based organizations have signed on to participate in the Mela.

### **Conferences and Workshop Participation**

Maheen Sultan attended the Dialogue on "Women's Political Representation: Lessons from Global Experiences for Bangladesh", at the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Dhaka.

Dr. Sohela Nazneen returned from a 2 month Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). She was working on outlining the theoretical framework of a proposed book on "Voicing Demands: Feminist Reflecting on Strategies, Negotiations and Influence". During her time at IDS, Sohela also attended a conference at York University on "Gendering East & West". The conference focused on gendered identities and the transference of ideas between 'East' and 'West'. Dr. Nazneen was also invited to be part of the Biennial Review of IDS, to provide input from a partner's perspective.

### **CfL Update**

#### **Shaheen Ara Presents her ELT Paper in the 7th Asia TEFL Conference in Thailand**

Shaheen Ara, a lecturer of CfL, presented a paper titled "Different Strokes for Little Folks: The Need for Different Methodology for Primary English Education in Bangladesh" at the 7th International Asia TEFL Conference organised by Thai TESOL held during August 7-9, 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the conference was Collaboration and Creativity in English Language Teaching and Learning in Asia. The focal point of her paper was how methodological flaws of teaching English at primary level lead to low proficiency in English of students in Bangladesh, and how this method can be changed to improve the primary English education in Bangladesh. About twenty participants attended the presentation and showed a lot of interest in the topic by asking questions after the presentation.

#### **Final CfL Weekend @BU Savar Campus**

With usual grandeur, fun and laughter Centre for Languages celebrated the finale of CfL activities, summer 2009 on the last 8th August. The objectives were to involve the students in different co-curricular activities and to spur their creativity and innovative power which were fully manifested by different activities such as ♦ Creative writing, Debate, Quiz Competition, News Letter, Presentation Skills, Chinese Language Learning, Jewelry making, T-shirt and Lamp shade Painting and Fruit Carving. The main attractions of the finale were the cultural programme and the Debate Competition performed by students of summer 2009. The cultural programme reflected both the contemporary and the traditional trends of our culture. That acquainted the students with the rich Bengali culture and gave them the chance to appreciate. Consequently, through those activities and the last cultural programme the students came to know a new way of knowing and coming closer to each other. They have learnt a unique lesson of being united, staying away from petty notions, and enjoying the fun of teamwork.

#### **CfL Completes Pilot Phase BRAC Primary School Teacher Training @TARC Savar**

CfL successfully completed the pilot phase of BRAC Primary School Teacher Training on August 20, 2009. It was a three- month training program started from January 17, 2009. The aim of this training program was to improve the teaching skills of BRAC School Teachers. CfL awarded 65 certificates to the participants after the successful completion of the training. Eight CfL faculty members who facilitated this training program are Samina Nasrin Chowdhury, M. Aminul Islam, Moutushi Khandaker, Kazi Sarmad Karim, Samia Zerin, Pankaj Paul, Jesmine Zaker and Rehan Ahmed. A follow-up training program for the supervisors of these teachers has started on 29th August, 2009 with the aim to ensure implementation of proper methods in BRAC School English Classes. The Communicative Language Teaching approach (CLT) and supervision through feedback will be discussed in this training.

#### **CfL Director Ms. Abed Visits BRAC Schools**

Ms. Sarwat Abed, the Director of CfL, visited three BRAC schools at Panjokhara, Chandoer and Gultian in Manikganj on August 21, 2009. The visit was a follow-up to see the implementation of training on teaching techniques and usage of English language. The director expressed her satisfaction observing the classes of trained teachers and wished to maintain strong supervision for better performance. The director observed two classes of trained teachers, Ms. Khaleda Akhter of Panjokhara BRAC School and Ms. Nazma Akhter of Gultia BRAC School. In addition, a class of an untrained teacher Ms. Sabina Yasmin of Chandoer BRAC

School was also observed to compare the difference between trained and untrained teachers.

## **ENH Update**

### **Lecturer attends Shakespeare Study Course at Stratford upon Avon**

Ms. Rukhsana R. Chowdhury won a scholarship awarded by the English speaking Union to represent Bangladesh in this year's Shakespeare Study Course at the Shakespeare Birthplace Centre at Stratford upon Avon. The course encompassed lectures, discussions and workshops devised and delivered by Shakespearean experts, Royal Shakespeare Company actors and voice coaches. The classes were augmented by visits to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to watch plays, which were under discussion in class. It afforded her an opportunity to engage with Shakespeare's work from academic and theatrical points of view. She was able to interact with teachers of Drama and English literature from around the world and get their perspectives on teaching Shakespeare.

### **Visiting Fullbright Scholar**

Kris Peleg has joined the ENH department for a year as a visiting fullbright scholar. She lives in Minnesota and teaches at Century College. She earned her Ph.D in literature from the University of Arizona with a focus in autobiography.

### **Undergraduate thesis presentations**

Three graduating students (summer 2009) gave their thesis presentations on 30th August 2009 and 31st August 2009. The following is a list of presentations given by the students:

Salma Sultana: "Magic Realism: Mingling of fantasy and reality, tragedy and comedy in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude and Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children."

Sayma Khan: "Methodology of a teacher in the teacher in the teaching process"

Nawshin Shakila: "Teaching Methods and Classroom Management: An observation"

### **Masters Thesis Presentation**

Caroline Schneider, a graduating MA student (summer 2009) gave her thesis presentation on 30th August 2009. Her thesis was titled "Postmodernism, Community Building and Online Communication: - Are virtual communities 'real' communities?"

## **IGS Update**

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University launched The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2008 report on 29th August 2009 at Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) Conference Room, at Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. This year's report is entitled "Confrontation, Competition, Accountability". The programme was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury. The Institute invited academics, members of the civil society, eminent journalists, representatives from donor agencies and resident missions, practitioners in the field of governance and development, and friends of the Institute. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa was the facilitator for the programme and Dr Shahnaz Karim, Team Leader of the Report, made a presentation on the key findings. This was followed by a short question and answer session. The report was officially launched by the Chair. Please visit [www.igs-bracu.ac.bd](http://www.igs-bracu.ac.bd) for a full copy of the report.

Students of the third batch of the MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) offered by the Institute, visited South Korea and Malaysia from 16th to 31st August 2009. The team visited South Korea from 16 to 22 August 2009 and Malaysia from 22nd to 31st August 2009. They attended sessions on economic development and governance issues of South Korea and Malaysia. In South Korea, the sessions were addressed by academics from Korean Development Institute (KDI), School of Public Policy and Management. In Malaysia the sessions were conducted by the Institute of Professional Development under Open University of Malaysia. Besides academic sessions, the team also visited places of economic development and public administration interest in both the countries. Professor Dr. Emdadul Haq, Coordinator, MAGD Programme and Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator of the Institute accompanied the students during the tour.

IGS organised a workshop on the Planning and Proposal Writing on 31st August 2009 at its conference

room. Mr. Andrew Jenkins, Team Leader, Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management (IPSWAM), Bangladesh Water Development Board conducted the workshop. The objective was to give the participants an overview on project proposal writing and project management. During the workshop he discussed about some common mistakes in managing a development project. The last session was also a group work on preparing an outline plan and proposal. The workshop was attended by the Research Team of the Institute.

## **MNS Update**

### **Inter Department Quiz Competition**

The MNS departmental team consisting of three physics major students, Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud, Nakib Haider and Kazi Shudipto Amin won the BRAC Inter Department Quiz Competition held at the Indoor Games Room on the 9th August, 2009. The students were felicitated on their success in the Department on 16th August, 2009.

### **Visit of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. by MS Biotech Students**

On the morning of the 10th August, 2009 a team of MS Biotech students accompanied by Dr. Aparna Islam, Mr Iftekhar M S Kalam, Ms Adeeba Raihan and Mr Mustak Ibn Ayub of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences left for a day-long study tour of the largest pharmaceutical plant in Bangladesh, that is, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited.

After a two-hour journey in a cozy air conditioned bus provided by the host, the team reached the company's manufacturing plant at Kaliakor, Gazipur. The team was struck with the magnificent architectural beauty of the buildings surrounded by carefully manicured green lawns. The team was greeted warmly by Mr. Md. Nawabur Rahman, Deputy General Manager, Production Operations of the Dhaka Unit of the Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. He made a short visual presentation on the history and achievements of the country's foremost pharmaceutical enterprise. He also informed the visiting team that this plant had been constructed fulfilling the requirements of the company and as per the requirements of the international GMP standards like EMEA, UK MHRA and US FDA. Mr. Rahman then introduced the high level executive officers who cordially greeted the BRACU team and guided them around the various facilities. The elaborate guided tour of the facilities included the warehouse (where raw materials and products are stored for quarantine and distribution), dispensing of the raw materials and capsules, ETP, quality control, microbiological laboratory, product development, ophthalmic unit, cephalosporin and insulin manufacturing units. All units are individually situated and well equipped and very professionally maintained. As it is a plant for drug manufacturing, so all regulations have to be followed strictly. The team had to go through many stages of disinfection to prevent contamination. Cephalosporin unit (tablets, capsules, dry syrup and injectable preparations) has a dedicated plant and a separate QC lab as per the regulatory rules.

BRACU MS Biotechnology students, Mr. Moazzem Hossain Khan, who works as a senior executive in the marketing department of the Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Mr. Habibur Rahman who is stationed at the Kaliakor unit helped in arranging this study tour. They gave special attention to the visiting team by explaining every detail elaborately to make the trip fruitful and interesting.

The study tour ended with a delicious lunch and every participant was presented with souvenirs. A pleasant feeling prevailed amongst the participants of the study tour knowing that there is a Bangladeshi pharmaceutical company that serves the nation keeping in mind the best interests of the users. Furthermore, the team felt proud to see that these are world class facilities within Bangladesh for the manufacture of medicines of international standard.

### **Departure for Higher Studies in the USA**

Mr.Md. Anisur Rahman Molla, Lecturer in Physics at the MNS Department left for the USA on August 16, 2009.He will be working for his Ph.D degree at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio,USA.

### **Award for Excellence in Faculty Research**

Professor Mezbahur Rahman (visiting faculty on sabbatical leave at the MNS department) has won the 2009 CSET (College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Minnesota State University, USA) award for excellence in faculty research.

## **Stakeholders Meeting to Finalize the Draft Guidelines of "Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants in Bangladesh"**

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor in Biotechnology Programme attended the above- mentioned 2-day meeting .The meeting was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and South Asian Biosafety Programme (SABP). It is a common knowledge that foods derived from genetically engineered (GE) methods will be available in the local markets either by importing or as a result of fruitful research by the local scientists. So it is essential to have guidelines to test the safety of these foods. Under this backdrop BARC took an initiative on behalf of the government to make a draft of a guidelines and also move forward in implementation of such instructions. In the meeting draft guidelines were presented to the stakeholders by Dr. K. A. Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC, who is also the Convener of the Drafting Committee. Dr. Robert H. Potter, Senior Associate of Agriculture and Biotechnology Strategies (AGBIOS) who also developed the 'Draft 0' shared his experiences in developing this draft and while working with similar problems. Researchers and regulators from various public and private institutions and universities of the country and also delegates from various ministries of GOB took active part in the discussion to finalize the draft. At the end of the meeting several modifications to the draft were adopted. A roadmap for the implementation of the guidelines was also discussed in the meeting.

## **Farewell of Mustak Ibn Ayub**

A programme was arranged to bid farewell to Mr. Mustak Ibn Ayub who would be joining the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of the University of Dhaka as a lecturer. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and a few other faculty members of the MNS Department spoke on the occasion.

## **EMMA Programme**

Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) left for Italy on August 20, 2009 with a teaching staff mobility fellowship for two months under the European Programme Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia (EMMA) programme which is funded by the European Commission. Dr. Islam will stay for two months from August 20, 2009 to October 21, 2009 carrying out post- doctoral studies at the Department of Statistics, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.

## **School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Update**

### **IEEE Foundation President & IBM's Director (Research)'s Visit to BRACU**

President of IEEE Foundation and former (1984) IEEE President Dr. Richard J Gowen and Director at IBM Research and responsible for University Partnerships Dr. Kris Srikrishnan had visited BRAC University on 31st August 2009 (Monday). They met the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury in his office. After the meeting IEEE BRAC University Student Branch had organized a special lecture session where Dr. Richard J Gowen and Dr. Kris Srikrishnan spoke to BU students and faculties.

Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the session and appreciated Dr. Richard J Gowen and Dr. Kris Srikrishnan for their appearance at the session. Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan, General Secretary had presented on the recent activities of BRACU IEEE branch. He highlighted the recent workshop on 125th anniversary of IEEE organized by BRAC University IEEE student branch and the participation of executive committee members of BRACU IEEE on Region10 congressheld in Singapore. Prof. Mumit Khan, Chairperson of CSE had presented on his work with his research group "Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing" (CRBLP). He described the area of research of his group and demonstration most recent research outcome.

Dr. Richard J Gowen spoke on The Future of IEEE Humanitarian Technology Programs. He described elaborately about the IEEE Foundation and its objective. He also mentioned the potential role fostering technological innovation and excellence, access to technology information, humanitarian technology projects and many others. His importance to bridging the gap with sustainable solutions had attracted the audience where he indicated one significant point "Shift from project funding to profit funding".

At the end of the session Dr. Kris Srikrishnan gave a short talk on IBM technology development and current research. He shared his view on how the computer sector of Bangladesh can develop even further and provided some information which may help the graduates of BRAC University to initiate their research with IBM Corporation after their higher study.

## **Faculty Attended in international Conference**

Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, attended a 3-day conference titled "International Conference on Anti-counterfeiting, Security, and Identification in Communication, ICASID2009", held at City University of Hong Kong from August 20 to August 22, 2009. ICASID 2009 is the 3rd International Conference on Anti-counterfeiting, Security, and Identification in Communications. This conference aims to bring researchers and practitioners together that work on problems related to Communication techniques, RFID and Antennas, IC Design and System Integration, Network Security, Cryptographic Algorithms and Hardware Implementation, Anti-counterfeiting and Identification, Information Management and Industrial Policies. Mr. Faruque presented a paper on Image Processing titled "Face Recognition using PCA and SVM" in the conference.

## **Student Affairs Update**

### **BRAC University Cultural Club [BUCUC] members participates in a musical program organized by 'Shadhana'**

Upon request by Shadhana, a famous cultural organization of the country, BRAC University Cultural Club members participated in a musical program organized by Shadhana on 31 July 2009 at the Chayanaut Bhaban. BUCUC members Miftahuzzaman, Kabir Mehdi, Adrita Anowar presented Tagore songs, Lalon geeti, and modern songs of old and contemporary times. The members of Shadhana presented various types of solo and group dance. The performance of the BUCUC members was highly appreciated by the audience. BRAC University Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC)

### **Panchagarh Tour to observe Total Solar Eclipse**

A team from BRAC University Natural Sciences Club went on a study tour to the extreme north of the country to witness the total solar eclipse on 22nd July 2009. The totality lasted for about 3 minutes and 58 seconds, which is considered as of a fairly long duration. The next total solar eclipse that can be witnessed from Bangladesh is about a hundred and five years apart, which added to the excitement of witnessing this one. The team from BRAC University Natural Sciences Club consisted of 7 students, Md. Shamsul Kaonain (06101002), Ahmed Waris Al Majid (06105016), Zaki Abdul Kareem (05201007), Abul Hasnat (05210004), Kazi Sudipto Amin (06211001), Abu Obaida Mushfeque un Nabi (06311002), and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud (07311001). They were accompanied by a faculty, Mr. Apurba Saha of CSE. The team joined the tour organized by Anushandhitsu Chakra, a pioneer science organization and witnessed the event in the presence of renowned astro-physicist Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya of the University of California, Riverside. It was overcast on the day of the event and there was much anxiety and anticipation among those who gathered at Panchagarh stadium to witness the eclipse. Their patience had paid off as luck turned in their favor when the clouds cleared up slightly, enough to give a clear view of the event's most exciting moment ♦ the totality of the eclipse. The team also visited the extreme north border with India and returned with memories of the event to last long in the minds.

### **Feedback Session on Panchagarh Tour**

A feedback session was arranged by BRAC University Natural Sciences Club on the Panchagarh Tour at the Conference room of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 30th July, 2009. Prof. A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS, Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Program, MNS, and Prof. Dipen Bhattacharya, University of California, Riverside was present at the feedback session. Md. Shamsul Kaonain (06101002) presented a PowerPoint that highlighted the activities of the students in the tour in chronological order. Afterwards, Prof. Dipen Bhattacharya explained why a solar eclipse is a rare event, and talked about the position of the stars in the sky during totality. Venus was seen directly above us during totality, which is an extremely rare event, because we only see Venus during sunrise or sunset. Prof. Dipen also talked about the electromagnetic spectrum of solar radiation during the eclipse.

### **Alumni-Post Graduate won by 2-0 Against Undergraduate Students**

Again it's been proved that Old is really gold. The Alumni-Post Graduate Team has beaten the Undergraduate team by 2-0 at TARC-Savar ground on 7th August, 2009. The match kicked off at 5:00 PM sharp and the 1st half finished off by 1-0 scored by Shafequl, President of MBA Forum and Ex-Public Relation Manager of FCBU. The Alumni-Post Graduate team was consisted of Founder Members of FCBU including Founder President, General Secretary and other executive members. From the beginning of the match, they started to take control of the match and continued it till the end and after another score given by Shafequl, it was ended by Alumni-Postgraduate: 2- Undergraduate: 0. they again proved that their team



spirit and skills have not finished yet rather these are still enough to serve even to beat the newer. "Experience never fails" Alumni-Post Graduate team showed it to the BU.

## **INNOVATION**

Innovation was BUECC's last and final event of the month that as the name suggests was as innovative as possible. It was not a brisk idea though. The plan to bring out such event dates back long before. For a very long time, we wanted to do something that would relate totally with the purpose and work of our ECE department. So we thought why not arrange something that would bring the circuits and chips right on the field. Hence was innovation, a circuit-developing contest. In this contest, participants were divided into four categories based on their credits completed. Each category had groups of 2 people each.

Initially a preamble included the usual slide show presentation on BUECC that introduced the club to its audiences. After that, with the co-operation of the EB's the first segment of the contest began. This was the part where each group was handed out questionnaires based on the categories. The questions included all sorts of our subject related questions to make it fair for everybody. It was quite easy. So the judges had a tough time choosing out the best. However the best scorers were selected for the next segment. Finally, the long waited long planned part of the contests came, the circuit making. This is where our tag line came out to be true which was "you make an appearance; we take care of the rest". The theme was the club would be providing all the equipments and the participants just have to prepare a circuit. The one with the perfect working shape turns out to be the winner. There were total eight groups coming from each category in number of two. They were given a fixed time within which they had to finish making it. The clock went by, and with the buzz of the timer the contest came to an end. We had some of faculties as the judges. After going through the circuits and proper examination, the judges came to give their decision. The winner of the final circuit making part was Salwa Salam and Sheikh Korban Ali, giving their best shots. They were rewarded with lucrative prizes. The program ended with a little refreshment on the behalf of the club. Everyone enjoyed it, especially the circuit making part. Innovative it was indeed.

## **Career Services Update**

### **Job Placement News Month of August, 2009**

Sadia Hossain. (British American Tobacco)

Eshrat Mustafa (Eastern Bank Limited)

Tanzeri Hoque (Eastern Bank Limited)

Asaf-Ud- Daula (Prime Bank Limited)

Tasmiah Huq Chowdhury (Tech Valley)

Shahreen Imam BexTex Ltd.

Al Amin Sarder BRAC- Young Professionals

Md. Safiul Islam BRAC- Young Professionals

Farhana Jennifer BRAC- Young Professionals

### **Job Street Seminar on Interview**

Career Services had organized a seminar on CV writing and interview tips along with Job Street. The seminar was on 20th July, 2009 at our university building. The guest and the presenter was Mr. Aslam Parvez, Operation Manager, jobsbd.com (former Job Street. com). He had presented many important tips of interview for the fresh graduates from various departments. He clarified the common questions of interview boards as well as some other topics about the appearance for the interview. There are number of 11 students had attended and ended with a little refreshment.

### **Information session with Therap (BD) Ltd.**

Career Services Office (CSO), BRAC University has organized an on-campus seminar with Therap (BD) Ltd. on August 03, 2009. The seminar covered the recruiting criteria of their organization and also about their strong existence in social marketing support both in US and Bangladesh. Mr. Richard Robbins, CEO, Therap (BD) Ltd. and 4 of his team members conducted the session. A number of 25 students from School of Engineering and Computer Science participated at the seminar along with respective Chairpersons and faculty members. The session was very informative yet directive for the students and is believed to provide good insight about the required skills in the current job market for the students. The seminar concluded with a very interactive discussion session with all the participants. Issues like CGPA, soft skill, attitude requirements get most of the attention.

## **All University Fair**

Recently an event management organization Windmill Advertising limited has organized the All University Fair '09 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICF) on August 06-08, 2009. This fair is generally participated by the some local and international universities. BRAC University has took part in this fair in order to disburse admission and general information to prospective students of BRACU. Career Services has coordinated the fair stall of BRACU for the three consecutive days.

## **SPH Update**

### **Academic Programs**

#### **Mph program Courses**

The course Principles of Health Communication (MPH 690) was held in August 23-27, 2009. It was the first module held at ICDDR,B this year. The course was taught by Mahrukh Mohiuddin and Dr. Taufique Joarder was the Teaching Assistant. In addition, classes were taken by Dr. Nozrul Islam from BCCP, Syeedul Hoque Milky from UNICEF, Imteaz Mannan, Shahriar Rahman from Interspeed, and renowned media personalities and communication experts from Asiatic Marketing Company Limited Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker.

#### **Field visits**

As part of the Principles of Health Communication course, students visited Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) on August 25, 2009. They visited the health communication material development facilities and gained a first-hand experience of procedures involved.

### **centres and research iniatives**

#### **Bangladesh health watch**

A round table discussion on the National Health Policy 2009 was held in BRAC Centre Inn on August 20, 2009. The advisory and working group member of BHW and other health and health related issues experts were invited to the discussion. The post-lunch session was moderated by Mr. Shaymal Datta, Editor of Vorer Kagaj. The objective of the round table was to critically review the national health policy and make some specific recommendation to improve the health system of Bangladesh.

### **centre for health systems studies**

Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care model for Bangladesh (CPHC) Project

Data collection has been completed from Dhamrai, Dhaka and Mehendigonj, Barisal sites.

Health of the Garment Workers of Bangladesh: Impact of global economic recession Draft report of this project has been submitted to WHO. Second phase of the project has been started.

### **CENTRE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS**

The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS at the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) is initiating a new project in conjunction with CREA titled "Addressing Violence against Marginalized Women in South and Central Asia". It is a multi-county project focusing on three specific sections of marginalized women. Besides Bangladesh, the other participating countries are India and Nepal. The project is expected to last till 2011.

### **school events and other activities**

#### **Knowledge Fair**

JPGSPH'S annual Knowledge Fair 2009 was held in Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR'B on August 6, 2009. The Fair was chaired by Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director of BRAC. After the opening speech all participating public health experts (supervisors) introduced themselves to the students and briefly discussed their research interest and areas of expertise. Students were also given a folder which included the different

health programs of BRAC and ICDDR, B, list of all the theses work done by previous batches of MPH, and copies of recently published articles of the participating mentors/potential theses supervisors along with their profile. Students had the opportunity to share their ideas or topic of thesis with the supervisors of his/her interest.

## **meetings and visits**

### **Three Week's Internship Programme for the Students from Nagasaki University, Japan**

Eleven students from the Nagasaki University visited Bangladesh with a goal to participate in the three-week long internship programme at the James P Grant School of Public Health. This group of students started their internship on August 6, 2009 with an orientation session on BRAC Programme at BRAC Center Inn. The students continued the programme by visiting different GoB facilities, NGO facilities, International Organizations and BRAC programmes. They observed the public health development, management and other innovative issues in those institutions.

They also visited ICDDR,B, Programme Support Office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, JICA, Maternal and Child and Health Training Institute (MCHTI), UNICEF and different BRAC programmes for Education, Health, Micro-credit and Social Development. Mr. Nakib Rajib Ahmed coordinated the programme as the Internship Coordinator of James P Grant School of Public Health. Ms. Kaori Miyachi a faculty member from the Nagasaki University coordinated the programme from NU. The internship programme ended on August 23, 2009 with the students presenting their findings and experiences to the JPGSPH faculty and staff.

## **other school activities**

### **MOU Signed between JPGSPH and UNICEF**

An MOU was signed on August 19, 2009 between JPGSPH and UNICEF Bangladesh whereby UNICEF has contracted JPGSPH to prepare the District Investment Case Analysis (DICA) within a 6.5 months period ending in March 2010. Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director, JPGSPH signed on behalf of the School. Dr. Islam is the Principal Investigator, Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed is the Co-investigator, as well as Dr. Nasima Selim, Dr. Enamul Hasib and Shafiun Nahin Shimul are actively involved with the project. academic study groups (ASG)

### **ASG on Genocide, Trauma and Healing**

The August ASG was held on August 11, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room. The ASG featured a documentary film on the Bangladesh Liberation War victim and living martyr Mazibor Rahman Debdas, directed by Mofidul Hoque and produced by the Liberation War Museum. The screening was followed by a brief paper on Genocide, Trauma and Healing: A case study of the 'living martyr' of Bangladesh Liberation War by Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer, JPGSPH.

Mofidul Hoque, writer, publisher, trustee member of LWM and director of the documentary film was present for the post-screening discussion. The event ended with an open and lively discussion. Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director, JPGSPH; Sabina Faiz Rashid, MPH Coordinator & Associate Professor, JPGSPH and other faculty and staff were in attendance. A few audience members also came from BRAC University, BRACU - IED (Institute of Education) and ICDDR,B.

## **MPH student activities**

On August 4, 2009, the current 5TH Batch of MPH students held a Cultural Evening where the students performed for the JPGSPH faculty and staff, and their friends and family. The show was full of lively and energetic performances by the students showcasing their dancing, singing, and even acting talents. Most of the students performed pieces that were representatives of their own culture. The show was concluded by a dinner for the students with the JPGSPH faculty and staff.

## **faculty news**

### **CONFERENCEES, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS ATTENDED BY FACULTY MEMBERS**

Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, attended a meeting on Climate Change and

Health: A Health Systems Perspective organized by WHO (SEARO) on August 21-22, 2009 at New Delhi, India. The meeting was to discuss a future multi-country (Bangladesh, Maldives, and Thailand) project looking at climate change and its consequences for health systems and health in these countries. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Sangay Thinley, Director of Health Systems Development, SEARO. JPGSPH will be spearheading the Bangladesh part of the project.

CREA conducted a conference titled Count Me In! from August 24-25, 2009 at Goa, India to bring together all the different country partners of the project looking at violence in marginalized women in order to outline the scope of the project, the methodology, the budget, and the timeframe. Ms. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Centre, and Ms. Tisa Muhaddes, who handles JPGSPH Communication, participated at the conference.

BRAC Human Rights and Legal Services programme held a seminar on Research Findings on Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Judicial Remedy in Rape Cases, on August 26, 2009 at BRAC Centre. The presentation covered some basic components of the BRAC legal services dispute resolution model, which seeks to empower women by improving their access to justice. The study also addressed some of the weaknesses of this model and the difficulties of implementing it for women in rural areas. Ms. Anuradha Hashemi attended the seminar on behalf of the School.

Dr. Nasima Selim completed teaching the "Research Method" Course (ARC 522) for undergraduate architecture students at BRAC University.

### **faculty publications**

Dr. Nasima Selim's paper titled "Cultural Dimensions of Depression in Bangladesh: A Qualitative Study in Two Villages of Matlab" has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition published by ICDDR,B new faculty and interns

### **NEW FACULTY**

Profulla C. Sarker joined JPGSPH as the Senior Policy/Advocacy Advisor for the National Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project, and as a Adjunct Professor. His past work experiences included teaching at various domestic and international universities. He also consulted for UNICEF, WHO and NGO Forum.

Upama Chakrabarty has joined JPGSPH as a Research Assistant. She has a Bachelor in Computer Science from University of Pune and a Masters in Finance from Stamford University.

Anuradha Hashemi has joined JPGSPH as Research Staff. She has a BA in anthropology from Mount Holyoke College. She has previous work experience in gender and reproductive justice and a continuing interest in sexuality as a social justice issue.

### **GDLN Update**

#### **e-Learning course on "Exporting Agrifood Products to Emerging Global Markets 2009 Phase 3"**

This course was organized By Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank platform from 4th Aug to 6th Aug 2009 at BRAC University Video Conference Centre.

The intent of "Exporting Agrifood Products to Emerging Global Markets 2009 Phase 3" was to enhance participants' knowledge of the current trends and opportunities for agrifood products in emerging global markets and identify ways in which agribusiness enterprises and food exports from member countries can benefit from such trends and opportunities.

This course was enable participants to understand the current and emerging import-related procedures, policies and regulations for agrifood products in selected global markets and was also enable them to formulate national and enterprise exports strategy.

The main faculty comprising two resource speakers delivered presentations from India and Japan. There

were 25 Participants in Bangladesh site.

The Countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and IR Iran.

### **Video Conference workshop on GP and the Environmental Management System (ISO14001)**

Successfully concluded a workshop on e-Learning Course on GP and the Environmental Management System (ISO14001) for National Productivity Organization (NPO) under Ministry of Industries of the Government of Bangladesh. Engr. Horendra Nath Ghosh coordinated the event for Bangladesh participated by 22 participants of different Public and Private Enterprises invited by NPO, Dhaka.

Green Productivity (GP) is a strategy for enhancing productivity and environmental performance for sustainable socio-economic development. It is the application of appropriate productivity and environmental management tools, techniques, technologies to reduce the environmental impact of organization's activities for products and services.

This workshop intends to train participants through the e-learning platform on Green Productivity (GP) concepts and Environmental Management System (EMS): ISO14001 standards, requirements, and applications and prepare them to become the practitioners and auditors to enhance productivity and environmental performance in member countries.

Asian Productivity Organization (APO) conducted the workshop from Japan via Video Conference from 10th Aug to 13th Aug 2009 through BRAC University GDLN Center. This was the second workshop in this month conducted by APO.

Mr. Md. J. Pervez, Director & Group Head (Environment), National Productivity Council, India, Mr. Chua Geok Boon, Senior Consultant, CAI-Oxbridge (M) Sdn Bhd, Dr. Norlinda Mohd Zawawi, Executive Director, Enviro Business Asia Sdn Bhd, Malaysia, and Mr. Md Zainuri Juri of Industry Department APO conducted the 4 day workshop which was also participated simultaneously by Fiji, Indonesia, IR Iran, Malaysia, and Mongolia.

### **Distance Learning Course on The Microfinance Training of the Trainers (MFTOT)**

The second VC of MFTOT6 for Asia had been delivered on 20th Aug 2009 on "Mobile Banking: The Case of Globe G-Cash" and "Microfinance and the Global Financial Crisis"

This presentation was the second among the four-videoconferencing sessions organized under the 6th offering of the Microfinance Training of the Trainers (MFTOT) Distance Learning Course. There were two parts to this session.

The first part was on Mobile Banking: The Case of Globe G-Cash and the second part were on Microfinance and the Global Financial Crisis. The speakers for the session were Paolo Baltao and Eric Duflos.

Sites connected for the session were Bangladesh, France, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka GDLN Centers (Afghanistan was not connected due to the presidential election).